HOW PEOPLE IN HONG KONG COMMUNICATE

Monica Chan
Hong Kong - J '83

People in Hong Kong speak mostly Chinese. Among the many dialects of the Chinese language, the more commonly spoken are Cantonese, Mandarin, Shanghaiese and Swatowese. In order to communicate with the Chinese community more effectively, many of the upper level members of the British Government Staff have taken the initiative to learn to speak Chinese, though they usually start out by picking up the foul words!
There are some interesting aspects about communication in Hong Kong. One of them is the morning tea. Many old or retired people like to go to restaurants for morning tea. They leave their homes very early, about five or six in the morning, and like to carry with them cages of birds. These birds are their center of conversation. They have not met each other before, however, they have become close friends through these constant morning meetings. From the birds, they can expand their topics to current affairs, their families and a lot of other things.

Many people like morning walks instead of morning tea. They get up early to go to the park or the hillsides to exercise or to practice Tai Chi. My mother is one of those morning walkers. She has high blood pressure and she walks every morning to regulate her blood pressure. Besides, she has made friends with other walkers, and they have formed some sort of community. If my mother does not show up for a few days, they will call and ask her if she is alright.

Lunch is a more favorite event of the day for most of the people in Hong Kong. We prefer to go to restaurants together in large groups. Americans do too. But there is one significant difference between us, that is, although some may order dishes individually, most of us prefer to share our dishes. By eating together from the same dishes, we have increased our proximity and have, therefore, strengthened our friendship.

When a boss wants to fire or promote someone who is employed in his firm there is a traditional way of showing his intention. During the Chinese New Year gathering, he will pick up a chicken wing from the dish and offer it to the person that he wants to fire. On the other hand, he will offer to the person he wants to promote a chicken drumstick instead. The person who receives the chicken wing or the chicken drumstick knows exactly what his prospect for the coming year is. But this practice is gradually diminishing in Hong Kong. Only a few traditional Chinese firms still employ it.

I believe there must be many interesting aspects about communication in the other countries of the world. It is quite impossible for anyone of us to really experience all of them. Maybe we can hear more about it from the other international students in the next issue of this newsletter.
on time, and, most likely, he would meet his doctor immediately. In short, the time concept in Brazil is not as exact as in the United States.

Another dissimilarity of concepts in verbal communication could be demonstrated in marketing. In Brazil, when a shop sets prices for its products, the shop expects to sell the products at any price above one half of the set prices. Therefore, the price of purchase at the same place might be different, depending on the "techniques" the buyer possessed. On the other hand, if a company in the States sold its products for different prices, the complaints would rise and the company would fail because people would lose confidence in the prices of the company.

In terms of non-verbal communication, the differences are greater and misunderstandings more often occur between Americans and Brazilians. For example, the Americans have the habit of using the hand to show the "OK" sign. The same sign in Brazil is insulting. For this reason, an American friend of mine got in some trouble before he learned not to use the "OK" sign in front of Brazilians.

Another example of non-verbal communication comes from my driving experience. For American drivers the horn is rarely used and if a driver does honk his horn, it would only be to call attention. However, in Brazil, the drivers must be aware of other driver's horns because the horns are an efficient method of communication. Usually, there are four different ideas transmitted by the horns. First, one short horn implies "attention calling" toward the other driver. Second, one long horn means the car wants to pass. Third, two short horns is used to call the attention of people outside of the car. Finally, two or three long horns gives the idea that the driver is bored from having to wait.

In conclusion, the verbal and non-verbal communication between Americans and Brazilians differs. And, in many cases, the same words or gestures represent different meanings. Therefore, in order for an American to understand the messages communicated by Brazilians, or vice versa, he must experience similar connotation of the message. Otherwise, he would often be offended and frustrated.

---

IS THERE A SPIRIT AT TUFTS?

Jon Randall
United States - LA '83
(Jon has lived in Germany for 8 years)

They showed me Cousens Gym. They told me that registration would be a zoo. They told me the essence of TUFTS was waiting in lines.....

We went off to Joey's. On the way they told me about the muggings at TUFTS. They told me about the fires at TUFTS. They spoke with a slight sarcasm that made me feel they didn't like it at TUFTS, but they said that wasn't true. They told me about the cannon that gets painted, about the mascot that burnt down. They told me I was lucky to live at Lewis. All these memories seem so far away, but among the blur of freshman parties, MOM'S posters, that boring speech at matriculation, host advisors, faculty advisors, advisory advisors ... there's still one event that remains very clear in my mind....
We were all gathered in Lewis Lounge, Resident Director, John White, had just given us the run down on all the do's and dont's of dorm life (incidentally informing us freshman that no matter what the upper classmen said there were NO curfews) and then he sang....yes, HE sang the Alma Mater. Needless to say this was quite a different performance from that of the Beelzebubs, and thank God. It was much more down to earth - to put it another way - he sang so badly you didn't mind joining in....we all did....

People say the TUFTS community is apathetic and lacks spirit. I feel we do have a spirit of a sort here, we just don't show it off as much. At TUFTS (much to my surprise at first) there doesn't seem to exist a constant pressure to compete and succeed. As a result, people seem to be more natural - when an effort is made it is a sincere effort. Obviously, if you are not forced to do something, and you do it anyway, chances are you want to do it, and you will do a better job. Hence, we are not constantly surrounded by some unknown force among students known as the TUFTS SPIRIT, but rather we feel this force spontaneously coming to the surface. Homecoming is a good example. Most TUFTS weekends are dead. It is a time to split campus. But on certain rare occasions the student body does actually get together and live it up. Personally, I'd rather see such sincere celebration than spirit just for the sake of spirit.

For this reason I'd like to make a last comment on the Senate movement to appropriate $5000 for Cambodia. The reasons given for such action were that we should stop being apathetic and passive and finally do something. But if this is truly the case, then I do not think merely throwing five grand in Cambodia's direction is going to solve our problems. At present the issue involves a simple "yes" or "no". With hundreds dying every day it shouldn't be too difficult to pressure us into saying yes. But so what? With time we will forget, and be left just as "apathetic" as ever, and wondering what ever happened to our $5000. Would it not be better to invest say $500-$1000 of Senate money in a massive campaign aimed at stirring enough concern, SINCERE concern, among us, so that WE take the initiative and truly believe in earning money for Cambodia, and are anxious to see the results of our efforts? Think how many parties could be sponsored with the proceeds being donated to Cambodia. This action would serve the dual purpose of satisfying us on a Friday night while allowing us to work collectively towards a worthy cause.

I think there is a TUFTS spirit. I think there is a sincere TUFTS spirit. Telling us we are apathetic and must do something to prove we are not will not work - it is against our principles. Convince us that our combined effort really would make the difference - and I think you'll get much better results. Above all do not ever attempt to keep such important issues from the student body, give us a chance before you call us apathetic, and don't threaten our Senators either because ....that's not nice.

REFLECTIONS ON A VISIT TO THE NORTH END

Ine Rahardja
Indonesia - J '83

My goal in going to the North End was to explore the Italian culture, which I had heard could be found in this area. Before actually going to the North End, I had hoped that I would find "a typical Italian community", with the people living there speaking their own language, Italian style buildings and Italian names that could be seen written on the buildings. When I got there I found the situation quite different.

It is a community with local shops, houses, churches and people, most of whom speak English either to the tourists or to themselves (the Italians). The shops consist of modern American style buildings and small local ones. There are some historical places, small alleys and cobbled streets. In short, the community has been mixed with the American culture.

I heard the same noises all over the place, the sounds of traffic, people communicating with each other, and most distinguishable of all, the ringing of the Old North Church bells: loud and clear. I smelled the delicious aroma of food outside some restaurants, the smell of fresh vegetables and fruits which are found in the outer part of the community, the smell of baked goods and spices. I could identify everything, except some of the names of foods written outside the restaurants, for example, Ravioli.

My friends and I wandered around the grocery shops. We did not buy anything, but we talked with the man selling fruit and asked him about the dark color of the pear. He was friendly and talkative. We stopped by Mike's Pastry and spent a while looking around. During this time we interacted by
talking, and all the people to whom we talked answered in English. It was only once that I heard someone speaking Italian and they were considered "the old generation".

The Italians interact with each other by speaking both English and Italian, but mostly English. They have a habit of moving their hands whenever they are involved in a conversation. It seems eye contact also plays an important role in communication. When talking, they keep a close distance to one another. I don't think there is a difference in the way they interact with non-natives. They were just as friendly and helpful to us. When we asked a man for directions, he answered politely and slowly. It seemed he was very glad to converse with us; we could see it by his happy smiling face.

I didn't establish a meaningful relationship with anyone, since our time was limited, but the man who pointed out the European Restaurant to us told us to have a hearty meal, which I thought very friendly of him. I think it is not going to be a hard job trying to communicate with the Italians of the North End. Some of them are already influenced by the American life style.

Spotlight on Madeline

If you have stopped in the International Office lately, you have probably been greeted with a warm smile and hello by a newcomer to the office - Madeline Donheiser. Born and raised in New York City, and having lived in Miami, San Francisco and Hawaii, Madeline feels her past thirteen years in the Boston area have been the best. She says that, "Working in the International Office has turned out to be much better than I had expected. I love talking with the students about their backgrounds and helping them solve any problems they encounter." She also finds working in the International Office a good source of stamps for her collection. Madeline enjoys many other hobbies and pastimes, from crafts to editing her son's elementary school newsletter - "The Parmenter Press" - to running two miles a day. And for her own benefit, she is doing a research project on India. So the next time you stop in the International Office, take a moment to chat with Madeline. I think you will find her as fascinating as I do.

William Harris
LA '81

A Special Thank You.

to all of the students who helped with the Fall Orientation. Their creative planning and organization helped Orientation Week flow smoothly and provided the new students with a warm and fun-filled welcome to Tufts. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by the International Office staff.

Thank you again -

Ann Ellingson
Dimitry Erez
Li-fang Liang
Shari Moin
Richard Palken
Erica Piedade
Haleh Shamsi
Ken Baumoel
Monica van Beusekom
Rick Cottiero
William Harris
Marsha Margolis
Heather Molten
Carlos Munoz
Fun Yuk Ng
Liisa Niemi
Karen Pippin
Sharon Salemms
Carleton Young
Bob Petrack
Evelyn Oyola
Jonathan Kahn
Yako Hirai
Amarjeew Kaul
John Holland

William Harris
LA '81
Activities

FIRST FRIDAY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OPEN HOUSE

We, in the International Office, invite you to come and join us for snacks and conversation at our monthly "First Friday of the Month Open House." It will be held at the International House (Davies House) 13 Sawyer Avenue from 3:30-5:00 pm. Mark these dates on your calendar:

December 7 (It is our Holiday Party)
January 4

We had great fun in November. Hope to see you there.

INTERCULTURAL SERIES

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to watch a black-belt karate expert in action only two feet away from you? - or - how an Indian woman actually drapes that one piece of cloth about herself to make a sari? Have you wanted to hear about and/or see a slide presentation of the experiences of an American in Hungary or France? Have you ever wished you could sample un-Americanized spicy Szechuan Chinese dishes or learn how to eat with chopsticks correctly by someone who has used them for his entire life?

Learn about all these things and much more this semester by participating in a new program being offered by the International Office called the Intercultural Series. Everyone in the Tufts community is invited to informally explore various aspects of different cultures or share an experience, ideas or special part of their own culture with others.

The Intercultural Series will schedule these "guest speakers" on a flexible basis. Their topic, time and place of presentation will be publicized well in advance. So — Keep your eyes open for announcements. If you are interested in being a speaker, call Bob Macasaet, 628-0313 at the International House for more information.

Intercultural Series Schedule of Events

Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7:00 pm — An evening on Nepal — Jayne Hill
Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 7:00 pm

Announcements

THANKSGIVING DINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

Many times the International Office gets phone calls from families in the Boston area who would like to host an international student for Thanksgiving Dinner. If you're interested in joining a family on this occasion, call x545 for more information.
"Join the World Affair's Council International Student Program for an international feast! Bring your family (Host Family as well), friends, and a favorite dish from your country to share with others. All are welcome to this evening of pleasant companionship and international cuisine." November 23, Friday, 4:00 pm.

The World Affairs Council of Boston, a forum for exchange on international and intercultural relations, provides opportunities for cultural relations and opportunities for international students to gain a broader view of American life and in turn, to share their countries with the local community.

You can participate in activities such as field trips, weekends and evening discussion groups through the World Affairs Council. This program offers you the opportunity to meet people and learn about the Boston community. For information brochures, contact the International Student Office or Steve Sjoberg at: World Affairs Council, 22 Battery-march, Boston, MA 02109, 428-1740.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

November 15, Thursday
Field Trip to the Christian Science Monitor. This visit to a major international newspaper will include a tour of the Christian Science Publishing Society (publisher of the Monitor) and a meeting with Mr. David Anable, Chief Editor for International News. SPACE IS LIMITED. Call Steve Sjoberg, 428-1740 for details. No Charge.

December 6, Thursday - 5:30 pm
Evening Program - "A Dialogue on the U.S. Policy in the Caribbean," with former U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica, Frederick Irving, and James N. Goodsell, Latin American Editor of the Christian Science Monitor. A comprehensive look at our relations with Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. Curtis-Saval International Center. Admission: members: $300; non-members: $4.50; student members: $2.00 and student non-members: $3.50.

INTERNATIONAL ID CARDS

The International Office issues International I.D. cards to Tufts students. This card is indispensable for getting all sorts of student discounts abroad, particularly in Europe. Cards are $3.00 (cash) and you will need a small picture (1 1/2" x 1 1/2") of yourself. Stop in the Registrar's Office, Basement Ballou, to get the form and Registrar's signature. Bring completed form to the International Office on Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00 pm.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - Global Classroom Visit

The International Office, in cooperation with the Medford Public Schools, sponsors a Global Classroom Program. This program provides an opportunity for you to be of service to the community; to share your experiences and culture through visiting local elementary and secondary schools. Ximena Vaca spoke to the Spanish Club at Medford High School about Nicaragua. Socorro Chow is going to visit five and six year olds and share Nicaraguan customs and culture.

If you would like to share yourself and your country, please call Susann Sjoberg, International Office, X549. Transportation is provided and participation is arranged according to your schedule. It will take about an hour and a half of your time.

EXTENSIONS OF STAY

International Students should make sure that their Arrival/Departure Form I-94 (the small white form that you received upon entry into the United States) is valid at all times. Within thirty days prior to the expiration date appearing on this form, (not before) students are required to submit this I-94 form along with a green form (I-538) to the Immigration and Naturalization Services to request an extension. These forms can be obtained at the International Office. They must be carefully completed by the student requesting an extension and signed by Leslie Rowe. For your own protection it is advised that you make a copy of your I-94 card as they are sometimes misplaced at the Department of Immigration.

If you did not leave the United States this summer, your stay has probably expired! Check the date on the white card in your passport and come in to the International Office to extend it now!
Come Join the International Club's Ski Trip

Tufts International Club is sponsoring a ski trip to Mr. Tremblant from January 6-12 in conjunction with Tufts ski club. Mr. Tremblant is 90 minutes from Montreal and is one of the better ski resorts in North America. We will also make several trips to Montreal to get a taste of Canadian nightlife. The trip will cost $180 including: six days lodging, five days skiing, seven breakfasts, seven lunches and transportation. A $20-$30 discount will be given to those who provide the transportation. For further information, contact:

Charlie Janac, 001 Lewis Hall, 776-4098
Shahriar Moin, 105, 10 Garden St. 661-6848
Haleh Shamsi, 11 Schmalz House, 628-0286

Hope your can come!

Shahriar Moin
President
International Club

DECEMBER GRADUATES

If you are planning to apply for Practical Training, a 12 month working permit in your field, talk with Leslie as soon as possible. You may apply 2 months prior to graduation and no later than 1 month after graduation. You do not need a job to have the first 6 months approved. If you leave the country without having your Practical Training approved, you will forfeit your opportunity for Practical Training and will not be permitted to enter the U.S.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS ON-CAMPUS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

For those of you living on-campus who will be here during the holidays, there will be no charge to stay in the dormitories. However, only one residence will be open. You must make arrangements with Julie Glavin or Helen Glickman in the Housing Office, x381, by December 5.

DO WE HAVE YOUR ADDRESS?

If you have changed your address or phone number recently, please come in (or call) to update it with the International Office.

Travel

PLANNING A TRIP SOON?

F-1 STUDENTS - If you are leaving the United States during the winter holidays please request a current I-20 Form.

J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS - You may use the pink copy of your IAP-66 Form to re-enter the United States after visiting abroad. If you have not received the pink form back from Immigration and Naturalization Service extending your stay, be sure to request a new IAP-66.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITS TO CANADA

Before planning a trip to Canada, be sure to check with the International Office to find out if you will need a visa to that country. Last year, the Canadian government changed its immigration policy and now makes it mandatory for nationals from certain countries to obtain visas before they are granted entry into Canada. For further information, contact the International Office or the Canadian Consulate, Tel: 262-3338.

English Classes

ENGLISH INSTRUCTION - Undergraduates
Spring Semester

If English is not your native language and you have always had difficulty writing papers, there is a special section of ENGLISH 8 for students whose first language is not English. If you would like more information about the course, please see Kathy Irving or Harriet Siegel, East Hall, Room 105 X478. This course will fulfill one semester or the writing requirement. Permission of the instructor is required for enrollment.
LANGUAGE EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Have you studied abroad and want to practice speaking? Want to bone up on your English? Or just want to learn a new language and possibly teach someone your own? Language Exchange is a program that matches people up so that they can learn and teach each other in a one-to-one situation at their convenience. You need not be a language major or certified teacher! This is an excellent way to expand language skills and cultural knowledge. You can meet with your partner at the International House on Mondays, from 7:00 pm to about 8:00 pm. Or if that time is inconvenient an alternate time can be arranged. We have a wealth of resources here at Tufts, so get involved and take advantage! For more information, call me, William Harris, at x60-298. Messages may also be left for me at the International Office - call x545 or drop by Brown House.

LANGUAGE VOLUNTEERS

The Cambridge School Department is looking for volunteers in the following languages:

- Arabic
- Bengali
- Cantonese
- French
- Greek
- Ghanaian
- German
- Haitian French
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Malaysian
- Mandarin
- Norwegian
- Persian
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Urdu
- Yorba

Anyone proficient in any of these languages willing to volunteer a few hours a week to tutor children should contact the Bilingual Office of the Cambridge School Department, 159 Thorndike St., Cambridge, MA 02238. The telephone number is 498-9236.
WIVES GET-TOGETHER

All the wives of foreign students and faculty are invited to attend a "Wive's Get-Together" on Thursday, November 29, at 11:30 am, for a "pot luck" lunch. Each woman attending the lunch will be asked to bring a favorite dish from her country.

Please call Susann or Madeline at the International Office, 628-5000 x545 for more information.

We hope to see you there!

WIVES ENGLISH CLASSES

An English class is offered free of charge to all wives of foreign students and faculty members or researchers at Tufts Medford Campus, Medical and Dental Schools, and the New England Medical Center Hospital.

The English class is held on the Medford Campus in Brown House, 38 Professors Row and meets Monday and Thursday from 2:30-4:30 pm.

You are welcome to join any time. For more information, call Susann Sjoberg x545.

THOUGHTS ON WOMEN’S CENTERS FOR FOREIGN WIVES

Since I had worked in the U.S. once before for a year, the American experience was not new to me (obviously I much prefer Boston to Buffalo, New York where I lived then!) This time, however, was very different.

In 1972-73 I was single and working as a resident in a hospital; this time I was a "foreign wife" with a baby! I would like to share my experiences in particular with the other foreign wives, many of whom also have small children.

Many of the Boston communities have a Women's Center - there is one right on the Tufts campus, as well as in Cambridge. I'm going to tell you something about the Somerville one, since this is the one which has meant so much to me.

The activities of the Women's Center include classes, support groups, discussions, workshops and various recreational, cultural, and sports event. The Mothers' Project of the Women's Center helps set up drop-in centers and babysitting exchanges in neighborhoods around Somerville. There are also special support groups and other educational and recreational activities for women with small children.

The Center itself serves as a drop-in at regular hours each week. When I started going there with my 10-month old son Gerhard last Fall, it was offered weekly on Wednesday mornings from 10-12. Presently it is also held on Monday mornings at the same time and we hope to extend it to three mornings a week in the near future.

This is an opportunity for the children to play together and is especially valuable at the beginning of one's Boston stay, when you know practically no one with small children.

The mothers talk, take a break or plan activities (e.g. going together in a group to the Children's Museum). Personally I made several good friends when I was new and needed them most.

The center also offers assistance, support and information to women in all circumstances. All Center events are open and free.

Thus, if you are a foreign wife and feeling lonely, or need someone to talk to or some advice, feel free to drop by for a cup of coffee and a chat either at the Somerville's Women Center (38 Union Square, 623-9340, no need to be a Somerville resident) or at the one in your own community. Pretty soon you won't feel "foreign" at all!

Emmerentia Erasmus
South Africa

Staff

Leslie Rowe - Director
Susann Sjoberg - Department Assistant
Madeline Donheiser - Clerk Typist
Helen Li - Student Assistant
Li-Fang Liang - Student Assistant
Joanne Werner - Student Assistant
Anne-Rose Liberman-Alfasi - Student Assistant
Bob Macasaet - Intercultural Series
William Harris - Language Exchange
Kathy Irving - English 8 Instructor
Shahriar Moin - International Club President
Nancy Cooke - International House Head Resident
Beverly Goldstein & Audrey Hale - International Hospitality Program Coordinators
The Housing Office makes space available to groups of students who wish to pursue a common interest, from the practice of a foreign language to the exploration of a culture or discipline of study. The current culture groups are:

- African-American
- Asian
- French
- German
- Hebrew-Yiddish
- Irish-American
- Latin
- Roots and Grown
- Russian
- International

The International House, 13 Sawyer Avenue is a residence made up of students from the United States and around the world (currently India, Netherlands, Republic of China, Iran, Italy, Hong Kong and the Philippines.)

The group enjoys international dinners, slide shows, lecture presentations and parties. If you might be interested in living in the House next year, complete the following information and send it to the International Office, Brown House. The completed application must be returned to Nancy Cooke, Head Resident International House or Susann Sjoberg, International Office by the first week in February.

 *****************************************

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

I may be interested in living in the International House next year.

NAME __________________________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER ___________________________________

YEAR ____________________________ MAJOR __________

Return to the International Office, Brown House.